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Arcadian Winery (Santa Maria, CA)

2006	➔ Pinot Noir – Dierberg Vineyard	red	91
2006	➔ Pinot Noir – Fiddlestix Vineyard	red	93
2006	➔ Pinot Noir – Francesca	red	91
2006	➔ Pinot Noir – Gold Coast Vineyard	red	92
2006	Pinot Noir – Pisoni Vineyard	red	91?
2006	Pinot Noir – Sleepy Hollow Vineyard	red	89
2006	➔ Pinot Noir – Solomon Hills – Jill's Cuvée	red	91
2006	➔ Chardonnay – Dierberg Vineyard	white	89

Joe Davis' goal is to create serious, long-lived and intense Burgundian styled wines and to that end, he typically uses a high proportion of whole clusters. In 2006 Davis indicated that he used between 60 and 90% stems and noted that the '06s, along with the '04s, are among the ripest wines that he has ever made. Readers should note that because of the presence of stems during the vinification, the texture and mouth feel of his wines are decidedly different than much of what you will usually taste from California and Oregon. Not surprisingly, stylistically the wines do indeed closely resemble the Burgundian model and it would require a careful taster to identify many of the Arcadian wines as US pinots. The average '06 received 27 months of *élevage*. For further information, contact: (805) 688-1876 or visit www.arcadianwinery.com.

2006 Pinot Noir – Francesca: (from Central Coast fruit; bottled at 13.9%). A pure red berry and earth-infused nose of considerable complexity gives way to nicely rich, detailed and equally pure medium-bodied flavors that possess as much depth as the nose, all wrapped in a serious, restrained and beautifully balanced finish. This is a very understated wine of impressive poise. Really lovely stuff. 91/2013+

2006 Pinot Noir – Gold Coast Vineyard: (from Santa Maria fruit; bottled at 14.5%). This displays a really beautiful nose and a discreet floral hint adds nuance to the subtly spiced and earthy intense red and blue berry fruit aromas that serve as a flourishing introduction to the equally intense, serious, dense and strikingly delineated medium-bodied flavors that possess fine depth and outstanding length. This is a balanced effort that should age effortlessly. Recommended. 92/2013+

2006 Pinot Noir – Dierberg Vineyard: (from Santa Maria Valley fruit planted in 1997 and bottled at 13.8%). An elegant, pure and airy nose that is ripe, spicy and captivating with its mix of red pinot and subtle earth aromas that lead to equally pure, round and supple middle weight flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel and culminate in a velvety and mouth coating finish. Lovely in all aspects. 91/2013+

2006 Pinot Noir – Fiddlestix Vineyard: (from Sta Rita Hills fruit and bottled at 14.2%). A distinctly floral nose is elegant and pure while showcasing ripe and spicy red pinot fruit that is in perfect keeping with the intense, earthy and serious middle weight flavors that are wonderfully balanced, long and palate staining on the lingering finish. This beauty has everything it needs to reward 6 to 10 years of cellar time. In a word, terrific. 93/2014+

2006 Pinot Noir – Solomon Hills – Jill's Cuvée: (from Santa Maria Valley fruit and bottled at 14.4%). An impressively complex and layered nose that is ripe, pure and spicy with notes of dried rose petal that are also a background nuance on the rich, full-bodied and quite serious flavors that possess a seductive mouth feel and culminate in a powerful, focused and dense finish that really coats the palate with extract. This is also notably impressive and recommended. 91/2013+

2006 Pinot Noir – Pisoni Vineyard: (from Monterey Country vines and bottled at 13.8%). While the nose does not display it initially, with extended aeration there is a distinct minty quality, but otherwise pretty red and blue pinot fruit trimmed in light spice notes that are also reflected by the detailed, intense and delicious medium-bodied flavors that also evidence some of this minty character that continues onto the finish. What's interesting about it is that it did not have this character until after several hours and then it became progressively more pronounced and the next day, it was no longer a nuance. I'm not sure how to properly judge this wine as it's certainly unusual. 91?/2013+

2006 Pinot Noir – Sleepy Hollow Vineyard: (from Santa Lucia Highlands fruit planted in 1974 and bottled at 14.7%). A notably floral and spicy nose combines mostly red pinot fruit with hints of cranberry that complement the very supple and forward medium-bodied flavors that possess a lacy mouth feel and a delicious, long and energetic finish. This isn't as complex as the best in the range but is really quite pretty and accessible though cellaring is recommended. 89/2012+

2006 Chardonnay – Dierberg Vineyard: (from Santa Maria Valley fruit; bottled at 14.5%). This is really quite pretty with almost no tropical aromas with notes of melon and citrus blossom that are trimmed in discreet wood before introducing rich yet detailed and balanced medium-weight flavors that are fresh, bright and nicely intense. Lovely and the only nit is just a bit of backend warmth. 89/2011+